

Unshakable together

Understanding Corporate Prayer

ICEBREAKER: What was the biggest prayer you prayed in 2020? Did God answer your prayer?

Aim of Discussion: to help people understand the importance of corporate prayer.

Introduction:

- 1 Samuel 14:6-8 – the story of Jonathan’s armour bearer. Jonathan and the armour bearer achieved the victory because they were united. When we are united, we can achieve great things.
- When birds fly in the V formation, they can travel 40% further in their journey. We cannot become great without a team of people behind us. For instance, Sir Edmund Hillary could not climb Mt Everest without his team of assistants!

A house of prayer for all nations

- Isaiah 56:7 “.....I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”
 - Together we are:
 - i. God’s household
 - ii. House of prayer
 - iii. All nations – multiculturalism

- Prayer is our major unifier in this church.

- Why is corporate prayer important? Matthew 18:19 – where two or three gather together, Jesus is there among us.

Three reasons for corporate prayer:

1. Praying together encourages individuals

- a. Just like the bird in V-formation, we can go further when we pray together.
- b. When we pray together, we hold each other accountable; we won't fall asleep spiritually.
- c. Acts 2:42 – the early Christians devoted themselves to pray together.

2. Praying together expands our perspective

- a. When we pray together, we are able to make decisions in line with God's vision.
- b. 2 King 6:18 – Elisha's servant was able to see the Lord's army when he was praying together with Elisha. His perspective changed when he prayed together with Elisha.
- c. We get a fresh heavenly vision when we pray together.

3. Praying together fosters our unity

- a. When we pray together, our prayer is not self-centred.
- b. 'Me' becomes 'we' when we pray together.
- c. God releases the commanded blessings when we pray together – John 17: 21

Unquestionably the church's identity as a house of prayer is significant, and the Lord desires to use the praying church as His vehicle to release blessing to the nations. – Mike Bickle

QUESTION:

1. What is one of the main challenges you have experienced that have prevented you from coming to corporate prayer? Are there ways you can overcome these challenges?
2. What are some new insights/reminders from today's session? How will you apply them in your Christian journey?
3. Can you share some breakthroughs/encouragements you have received from corporate prayer?

Things you can do:

1. Ask God to give you the passion for corporate prayer. Holy Spirit will help all of us who desire to pray more effectively, and we will begin to enjoy praying.
2. Invite other connect members to join the corporate prayer with you on a regular basis.
3. Remember God values our prayers even when we do not say them in the "right way. We come boldly to the "throne of grace" not the "throne of literary accuracy". Challenge yourself to come out of your comfort zone and learn to pray in the corporate settings.